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DIDSBURY REVIEW

TUESDAY, APRIL 02, 2013

www.didsburyreview.ca

Volume 26 Issue 14



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The Meadowlark Players perform "Positooivity" during the musical theatre section of the Olds and District Kiwanis Music Festival on Mar. 19.

Noel West/MVP Staff

Olds Kiwanis Music Festival wraps up

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

The Kiwanis Music Festival in Olds brought in students from across the region to perform in front of an audience, as well as experienced musicians and adjudicators, says Kirk Wassmer, music director for the Didsbury High School.

All five of the school's bands participated in the event - totalling about 120 students, he said.

"We had all five bands playing up there so that'd be 120 kids took part," said Wassmer.

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Olds, the festival brings in students from across the region to perform for, and be critiqued by professionals, he noted.

"It's one of those situations where, as a teacher, you tend to get reinforcement from what the adjudicators say. It's nice when they maybe put in a different way something you've been trying to get across to the kids - for some time, in some cases," he said.

Hearing that feedback from somebody else can often help it 'click' in students' heads, when they realize what their teachers have been trying to tell them, he added.

"That's kind of the beautiful thing about music too,

is that there's no right or wrong, necessarily. There's always going to be different opinions on how to do things, and all of them are right.

"So this kind of stretches you as a musician when you try and do something in a completely different way."

He said his students have really enjoyed participating in the event, but also getting the constructive feedback, especially as this is the busy time of year.

"This is a nice festival for us at this time of year, because we're just getting into our busy season with our performance tours and festival tours, so it's nice to get some feedback on what we're performing right now, so that we can improve on things for when we take off on our trips."

The senior band is heading out to Whistler, B.C. at the end of April for a music festival, and the Grade 9 band is going out to Moosejaw, Sask., he noted.

"As a teacher, I'm really thankful to have an opportunity like the Olds festival happening this close to home. It's nice to be able to drive up the road and take part in something like that," he said.

Wendy Durieux, coordinator of the festival said there was no shortage of good performances, from musical theatre to soloists.

Though some of the students are from schools, she noted many of them are taking extracurricular lessons outside of school and were entered by their instructors.

"We take in about 26 communities in the Central Alberta region," noted Durieux. "Basically schools in Chinook's Edge, and a lot of private teachers that send their students, so it's a little bit of both."

She noted that though performances are graded and critiqued, there are no placements, such as first, second and third.

Though she herself is a piano teacher, she said she enjoyed the musical theatre portion of the festival, "but don't tell my students that," she joked.

While it takes a lot of work to put together, especially with this being the festival's 30th anniversary, she said it is worth the effort.

"Every year I think is it worth it, and seeing them all perform is worth it. In the long run it is, and kudos to the parents and teachers and volunteers - we have a lot of volunteers," she said.

The planning for next spring's festival will be starting next month, she added, with a wrap-up show, the Grand Concert, planned for tonight, April 2 at the TransCanada Theatre in Olds.



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MSI funding increased

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

CAO Roy Brown gave his regular CAO's report to council last Tuesday, but the report itself was anything but regular.

He brought to council's attention that the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) funding provided to the town by the provincial government has increased substantially since last year.

"We got \$955,000 from the province in 2012, and in 2013 we'll be getting \$1,196,000," said Brown.

"So it's an increase of about 25.3 per cent. This is unexpected and we were very pleased to receive it."

The extra funding will be going into the town's reserves, he said, noting that council and administration deserve much of the credit for the raise.

This is because of the amount of work that they have put into lobbying and making grant applications to

ensure the town gets as much cash as possible from both the provincial and federal governments, he added.

"For example, our provincial and federal grants have risen from \$41 per capita in 2003 to \$708 per capita in 2011 - and this is in the age where grants are much more difficult to obtain," he said.

The grants that have particularly helped the town are the ones that were awarded to fund the north industrial stormwater pond, the upper lagoons, as well as remediation of the aquatic centre, he noted, adding that a myriad of smaller grants have also been obtained by the efforts of town staff.

Officials have tried to keep a lean operation as well, proven by the operating expenses of the town, he said.

The town's operating expenses in 2011 were \$742 per capita, whereas the median for other communities of similar size was just under \$2,300 per capita, he noted.

See MSI p. 3



Kevin Vink/MVP Staff

CLOSER TO JAMBOREE - Didsbury Elks' Exalted Ruler Terry Phillips presents a cheque for \$3,000 to Scouts Garrett Akister and Dylan Ward, and leaders Linda Rose and Jason Akister. The donation will be put towards the group's trip to the Canadian Scout Jamboree this summer.

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MSI

continued from p.2

"So we are actually almost \$500 per person below the provincial median," he stated.

This means that the town is spending less than average, he said.

"I think this shows that we are a lean operation and that our salaries to staff are also below the median. And then at the same time our reserves have gone from \$46 per capita in 2003 to \$271 per capita today."

He mentioned that the town's long-term debt load has gone from \$1,078 to \$1,866 per capita, but the positive part of that is that administration has replaced high-interest debt with low-interest debt.

"And it's also allowed us to have projects like Shantz Crossing, the

north industrial stormwater ponds and the lagoons, and have in place the infrastructure we need to satisfy our needs, up to 6,500 people."

Brown thinks council should be proud of these achievements, especially when combined with the fact that the 2013 budget allowed for a zero per cent residential tax increase.

"Having a zero per cent tax increase is something that we've been trying to achieve for quite some time, and I think it's a reflection on the increase in our non-residential tax base that has allowed us to do that," he noted.

"And hopefully we'll be able to keep that up, now that we've got other projects coming on stream."

Mayor Brian Wittal said that at a recent meeting with other mayors

and some reeves, Didsbury was the only town that mentioned getting an increase in MSI funding.

"I didn't hear from a single one of them that had an increase - they were all decreased," said Wittal.

He believes one of the reasons for the change is that the census statistics from two years ago - reporting an increase in Didsbury's population - played a part in the additional funds.

"If that finally kicked in now, it

boosted us up. So it's nice to see, and as was mentioned (at council) those additional funds that we hadn't allocated for in our budget will be heading to reserves so that we have those there for future use."

He said the money may be used to pay down debt, but said it is more likely that council will try to use it as leverage for matching grants from the federal and provincial governments.

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Information Line 403.335.2030
After Hours Pager 403.507.3624
Didsbury Neighborhood Place 403.335.8719
Aquatic Centre and Arena 403.335.7369

PUBLIC MEETINGS

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00 pm.
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING: Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m.
MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION: Wednesday, April 10 at 4:30 p.m.
Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in Council Chambers at the Town Office.



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Standard First Aid - April 13 and 14 from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Ages 15+. Cost is \$130.00 + GST. Registration deadline is April 5.

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23 Street sidewalk put on hold

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

Town council discussed the issue of putting a sidewalk on 23 Street south of the Lutheran Church last week at the regular council meeting.

"With 23 Street, the subject is should we put a sidewalk down there or not," said Mayor Brian Wittal.

The estimates came out to about \$250,000 for a sidewalk, he noted, but the decision came down to the fact that with the prospect of sections of the street being torn up for utility upgrades, installing a sidewalk is not the best option right now, he noted.

He said planning for it in the future is still an option, but as it stands, the main utility lines under 23 Street are going to be upgraded before the

Fieldstone development on the west side of 23 Street near the edge of town can take place.

There is a pathway system in the area that people can use instead, so council is going to be looking at educating students and residents as to what those pathways are, as well as try to keep the pathways clear during the winter, he said.

"They can walk safely through those communities using those pathways - as opposed to walking on the street itself - and then those interconnections are definitely there.

"(The paths) might be a little inconvenient, as residents may have to jog over a half a block or something to stay off 23rd, but from a safety perspective we think that's worth exploring further."



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Noel West/MVP Staff

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New assistant

Christofer Atchison has recently taken over as executive assistant at the town office since Melissa Hoppe left to pursue other opportunities, said Mayor Brian Wittal.

Atchison, who was working at the Forestburg town office before starting here, has municipal experience, so he was able to "hit the ground running," said Wittal.

"And it's just a matter of getting used to how we operate around here and getting to know the people he's working with, but he's doing a very good job for us," he added.

His previous experience has helped both himself and town officials, because administrators haven't had to spend much time training him, compared to somebody new to the municipal office world, Wittal added.

Miki Town farewell

Miki Town students

Community briefs

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

and teachers who were touring Didsbury late last month held a farewell 'Sayonara' potluck dinner at the Multi-Purpose Room on March 25.

"Sometimes it's a fairly quiet sort of in and out week," said Wittal, "but we advertise and promote it that the sayonara dinner is a community one that we'd like people to come to."

He said the Japanese students brought in some Japanese dishes for attendees to try.

"They did a few traditional Japanese dances for attendees and afterwards had some interaction and played games" he added.

"It is hosted by the Miki students and like I said, that's why it's an open event for the whole community to just come out and experience some of

the Japanese culture and meet the students that have been in Didsbury for the last four or five days."

This contingent was a group of about a dozen students and three chaperones - two from the town office and one teacher. They left the day after the dinner to do some touring in the mountains before flying home, he added.

Byelection bypassed

Council voted not to hold a byelection to replace Coun. Rayburn Anderson at the regular council meeting last Tuesday.

Because of the time requirements of holding an election, as well as the costs, council decided to hold off until the October election, Wittal noted.

He added that council usually takes either one or two months off during July and August, meaning the new councillor would only be active on council for a couple of months before the next election.

"It's really not giving that individual any opportunity to be involved at the council table honestly that would justify us spending money to put on the election," he said.

Traditionally, the budget for a municipal election is about \$10,000 and while holding a byelection would not cost quite that much, it would not be much cheaper either, he added.

"Whether you're electing one person or you're electing seven, the process is the same, and we just don't think that it makes sense to spend that kind of money to give somebody an opportunity to sit on council for only a couple months."



Photo Courtesy Didsbury RCMP

A still image from security footage shows a suspect behind the pharmacy counter at the Carstairs Pharmasave the morning of Feb. 1, 2013. Police are asking the public to help identify the suspect.

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Commentary

King Ralph's lasting impact

DAN SINGLETON

The death of former premier Ralph Klein over the weekend marks both a loss for Alberta and the passing of an era.

"A dedicated, outspoken and flamboyant individual, Klein left a lasting mark on the province, making his passing a sad occasion for this province," said Premier Alison Redford.

During his many years at the top of political power in Alberta, first as Calgary's mayor and then as a four-term premier, Klein was loved and loathed by Albertans in every part of the province.

As one of the most controversial and outspoken leaders Alberta has ever had, Klein must certainly rank with Peter Lougheed and Ernest Manning as one of the province's greatest premiers.

For rural Albertans Klein's greatest impact was probably his decision to change the delivery of health care in dramatic fashion.

For decades before Klein became premier, health care was overseen at the community level by local hospital boards, including in Olds, Innisfail, Didsbury and Sundre.

When Klein replaced the local boards with regional health authorities, he changed governance and with it the delivery of health care for every Albertan – a change that continues to this day under the authority of Alberta Health Services.

Getting Alberta out of debt was another of Klein's big achievements, something that for years afterwards

allowed Alberta, including rural communities, to grow and prosper without the heavy financial burdens faced by many other jurisdictions.

Klein will also be remembered as a staunch defender of Alberta's rights on the national stage, defending the province's energy and agricultural interests to the hilt in showdowns with then-prime minister Jean Chretien.

Yet Klein's era will also be remembered for controversy. For one, it should be remembered that he got the province out of debt in large measure on the backs of public sector workers, who were forced to take massive pay cuts as part of Klein's debt-free agenda.

And where premiers Manning and Lougheed spearheaded massive building programs that saw literally hundreds of schools and many hospitals constructed across the province, including in West Central Alberta, Klein's era saw no such massive infrastructure investment.

When massive flooding struck West Central Alberta in 2005, Klein came to Sundre and walked with concerned citizens along the banks of the flood-swollen Bearberry Creek.

As people come up to him, he time and again assured them he would do what he could to help meet the challenges. He didn't have to come to that place at that time, but he did, as any good neighbour would.

And in the end that's how Ralph Klein will probably best be remembered – as an ordinary guy who just happened to be one of Alberta's greatest premiers.

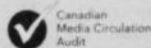
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100. Obituaries 100. Obituaries

CANNING, Lawrence Robert
August 18, 1921-March 25, 2013

Lawrence was born in Uilgient River Cumberland County, Nova Scotia on August 18, 1921 to Lillian and William Canning. Lawrence's father passed away when Lawrence was a mere fourteen months old and his mother Lillian packed Lawrence up and moved back to Alberta in the Vulcan area. She then remarried Rosco Pyne Munsey, and girls were born, June, Jeanette, Shirley. Lawrence took all his school 1-12, in various small schools in the county. At the young age of nineteen, Lawrence joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (R.C.A.F.) and became a Mechanical Engineer. He was posted in various places throughout British Columbia. Lawrence spent three years in the R.C.A.F. After leaving he spent a year at a BC sugar factory as a tech. Lawrence relocated back to Calgary, Alberta and worked for Canadian Pacific Air. Knowing he longed for education, Lawrence entered the Olds College in the Agriculture field. Going on to take four years of University at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, he graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture. Lawrence graduated at the top of his class. Lawrence then went to work for the government as an Inspector, R.O.P. (Records of Productions), his territory was from Fort St. John's N.W.T. to Thunder Bay, Ontario. His means of getting around was by the busses and staying with the farmers. In later years he got his own government car and that made it easier. Lawrence retired from the government in 1970. Buying a farm and dairy near Didsbury, he sold his dairy operation and leased his farmland, going into only raising cattle for the last few years. In 2003, Lawrence sold his herd of cattle and farm, buying a house in Didsbury, Alberta. Lawrence married Edith Garriock in June 2004, quickly filling the role of Dad, Granddad and Great Granddad - a new experience for him and he fit it well. In May 2011, Lawrence moved to the Country Manor and Rosefield Centre in Innisfail, Alberta and resided there until his passing. Lawrence was predeceased by his wife, Edith, three sisters, June (2009), Shirley (2010) and Jeanette (2011), his Mother (1994) and Father (1923) and step father (1967). He leaves to cherish his memory five step children Wes (Marylou) Garriock and family of Vulcan, Alberta, Don (Arla) Garriock and family of Magrath, Alberta, John (Ethel) Garriock and family of Drumheller, Alberta, Norma (Jerry) Garriock and family of Calgary, Alberta, Dan (LeeAnne) Garriock and family of BC; twelve step grandchildren, sixteen great step grandchildren, special niece Carroll (Ken) McDonald and family of Oyen, Alberta, special nephew John (Leslie) Ross and family of Calgary, Alberta, nephew, David Ross and family of Blain Washington, USA, niece Cheryl (Bill) Morrill and family of West Rose, AB, nephew Guy Cochrane of Calgary, AB, cousin Joyce (Ron) Zablocki and family of Medicine Hat, AB, Aunt Jane (Edwin) Pease of Oakham, USA and cousin Jane Parker of Nova Scotia. A Memorial Service will be held at the Chapel of Mountain View Funeral Home on Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. Memorial tributes may be directed to a charity of donors choice. To forward condolences, please visit our website: www.mountainviewmemorial.ca. Arrangements entrusted to Mountain View Memorial Gardens, Funeral Home and Crematorium, 1605-100 Street SE, Calgary, AB Tel: (403) 272-5555

See-Lloyd Henry Harold
1922-2013

Harold See passed away peacefully on Saturday March 16, 2013 at Three Hills Hospital at the age of 90 years. Harold was born on August 30, 1922 on St. Joseph Island, Ontario. He travelled to Alberta in his 20s several years to help with harvest. The west was in his blood! In 1953 he married Lois Jean Smith and they moved west. He worked for Burns Ranches, and a few other ranchers around the Calgary and Bearsapaw area. In the early 1960s he moved to Ontario to ranch, but returned to Alberta in the 1970s and settled in Didsbury. In 2007 he moved to The Chateau Lodge in Three Hills. Harold loved to hunt, travel, coffee with friends and of course spend time with family. He is survived by daughter Debbie Knievel (Philip) Trochu, AB; sons Barry (Laura) Calgary, AB; David (Shari) Tatla Lake, BC; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; sister Eileen Ward, Lively, ON; sister-in-law Jean See, Lively, ON; and numerous nieces and nephews and good friends. Harold was predeceased by his wife of 54 years Lois Jean; brothers Leslie, James, Joseph, and Clifton and sister Barbara. Harold's family would like to sincerely thank the staff of The Chateau and Three Hills Hospital for the very compassionate and heartfelt care. A memorial service was held at Heartland Funeral Home in Didsbury on Friday March 22, 2013. Donations can be made to Three Hills & District Palliative Care Program, P.O. Box 1595 Three Hills, AB T0M 2A0.

130. Coming Events 130. Coming Events

Ruth Jepson's
80th Birthday Celebration

All her friends are invited to come celebrate the afternoon with cake coffee and refreshments. Come join us to congratulate RUTH on another great milestone in her wonderful life.

April 6, 2013 from 1pm - 4 pm**Five-O-Club of Didsbury****2500-15 Ave Didsbury****No Gifts, Please**

1005. Help Wanted 1005. Help Wanted

Didsbury Golf Club

Now accepting applications for the upcoming season for the **Restaurant and Beverage Cart**

Email resumes to didsburygolf@gmail.com or call 403-335-8033 and leave a message

Mark your calendar - Saturday, May 4**Annual Fund Raiser****Prime Rib Supper - Dance**

(Featuring local band "Broken Heroes")

Silent Auction (Gladly accepting donations)

For tickets call 403-335-8033

190. Announcements 190. Announcements

It's a
60th Birthday Party!
Join us to celebrate in honor of
Terry Phillips
April 13th, 2013 at 7 p.m.
Rosebud Hall
located North of Didsbury
on Highway 2A

140. Births 140. Births

Keira and Max
are pleased to announce
the arrival of little brother
Casey Jonathan
Born March 16, 2013, weighing 9lbs 5oz.

Proud Parents:
Jonathan & Jen Reinhardt

Grandparents:
Dave & Lorelei Loewen
Werner & Karen Reinhardt

1005. Help Wanted 1005. Help Wanted

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14 Deer Coulee Drive



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2 Acres - Mountain View



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1337 - 25 Street



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\$415,000

206 Campus Green



Terrific 45+ suite, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, all appliances, reasonable condo fees, overlooking courtyard, great neighbors

\$184,900

8 Westhill Place



Affordable start or great revenue potential, 1/2 duplex w/3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, fireplace, large fenced backyard, great location

\$169,900

2110 - 23 Avenue



Great first time or investor property, excellent location in quiet neighborhood, single detached garage, gardener's delight

\$174,900

1506 Walter Place



Good sized bungalow with lots of upgrades, fully finished, 5 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, beautiful park-like yard, gazebo, pond, deck with hot tub and more!

\$319,000

18 Westpoint Drive



Gorgeous custom home, open plan, hardwood, oak kitchen, large island, 2 gas fireplaces, in-floor heat, 2 tiered deck with gazebo, great location.

\$369,900

103, 1902 - 23 Street



Lovely 25+ condo suite, beautifully decorated, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, floor heat, corner gas fireplace, 9' ceilings, single detached garage

\$183,900

The Porch Boys

Signs of

Spring

1803 - 17 Street



College Green condo villa, 1200 sq ft, fully finished, 2 bedrooms, 3 baths, double garage, reasonable condo fees, 40+

\$229,900

33 Westheights Drive



Immaculate, 3 + 2 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, upgrades in recent years to flooring, paint, bathrooms, furnace, double detached garage, great location.

\$289,900

201, 4500 - 50 Ave, Olds



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\$185,000

1409 - 20 Avenue



40' wide residential/commercial lot, lots of possibilities, great location, good exposure

\$79,000

17 Bluebird Drive



Shows like new, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, gas fireplace, hardwood, open plan, basement development started, one step walkout basement.

\$315,000

1801 - 17 Street



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2029 - 18 Avenue



Lots of upgrades inside and out, 1360 sq ft, 80' X 120' lot, large south facing deck, large balcony deck off of master bdrm, zoned residential/commercial

\$229,000

13 Valarosa Point



Brand new build ready for a spring possession, best area of Valarosa, 3 bdrms., 2 baths, hardwood, double attached garage

\$314,900 incl. gst

5628 Sunrise Cres., Olds



Terrific 50+ single level living, no condo fees, 2 bedrooms, 2 fireplaces, covered and enclosed patio, single attached garage.

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April 11 @ 7 p.m.

Valdy and Gary Fjellgaard

Tickets at Library, Museum and
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Didsbury Memorial Complex



1513 - 16 Street



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1338 - Centre St.



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\$239,000

790 Stonehaven Dr.



Immaculate inside & out shows like new, 2+1 bdrms, 3 baths, hardwood, fully finished, covered rear deck, underground sprinkler, oversized garage

\$317,900

6 Idaho Place



Beautifully Upgraded! 3 + 2 bdrms, 3 baths, hardwood floors, 2 FPs, newer furnace, roof, siding, central AC, gorgeous yard, double garage.

\$359,900